

FEB 25 2004

OFFICIAL

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. (703) 872-9306 on the date shown below.

Dated: February 25, 2004

Signature: 

(Linda J. Burleigh)

Docket No.: 297912001911  
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Tarun J. EDWIN, et al.

Application No.: 09/858,035

Art Unit: 3738

Filed: May 14, 2001

Examiner: P. Prebilic

For: EXTERNALLY SUPPORTED GRAFT**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated December 1, 2003, for which a response is due on March 1, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.

OC-270882